

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

October 4, 2005

RE: Tribal Comments on State of Montana Proposed 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper

Dear Tribal Leader:

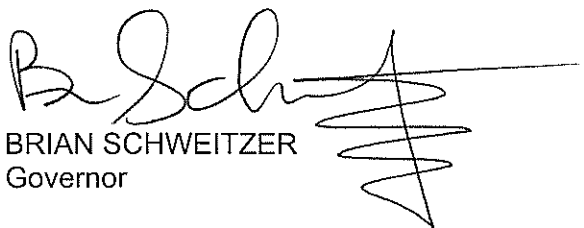
As Governor of the State of Montana, I am focused on ensuring affordable and accessible health care is a reality for all Montanans with special concern for our citizens that are the last and have the least. Based on estimates from the Montana State Planning Grant survey conducted in 2003, approximately 19% of Montanans are uninsured. This level is unacceptable to me. The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has identified an opportunity to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal government to increase health care coverage for the uninsured. My staff has reviewed the proposal and report that it may provide health care for an additional 5,000 uninsured Montanans. Now, I want to hear from all Montana's tribes.

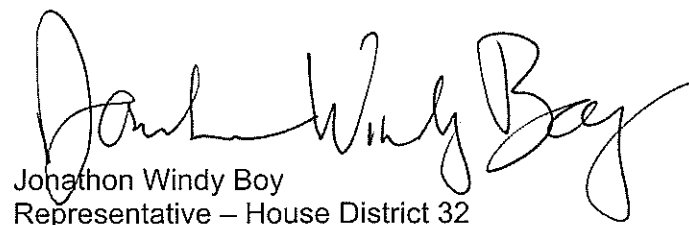
The DPHHS has prepared an 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper that describes the proposal. I have attached it for your review along with a letter sent to me by Ms. Joan Miles, the Director of DPHHS. It is a complicated proposal but the opportunity it could provide must be thoroughly examined. To assist you in your review, I have asked DPHHS to conduct tribal consultations in addition to the state-wide process and a variety of other methods to gain feedback and answer questions. This includes a website, www.dphhs.mt.gov, where information is available and where you can access an electronic copy of the concept paper, view other documents and correspondence regarding the Medicaid waiver, become aware of public forums and submit questions and comments. The public forums are identified on the website. If your tribal government would like additional information, DPHHS is willing to travel to your area to assist. I have also asked Representative Jonathon Windy Boy to sign this letter with me, as he has been involved with the State of Montana throughout the waiver's development.

I invite your comments and questions on this 1115 Medicaid Waiver Concept Paper. Please submit written comments and questions to DPHHS within 60 days of the date of this letter to: DPHHS Attention: Jeff Buska, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59620. Mr. Buska will also be the contact to set up local tribal consultations. His telephone number is 406.444.4145.

Thank you for helping and for your advice. I look forward to moving Montana forward and bringing hope to Montana families.

Sincerely,


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor


Jonathon Windy Boy
Representative – House District 32